

Board of Selectmen's meeting
January 16, 2014

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman David Muller; Selectman Dennis Tracey; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito; Residents.

This meeting was recorded and videotaped. Copies are available in the Selectmen's office. The meetings are available for viewing online via the Town's website.

Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance- Ms. Weinstein led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Mark Crowley to fill the vacancy (Robert Uzenoff) on the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2017- Mark said he relocated to Weston from Detroit in 2007 with his wife and three boys. He works for Deloitte and Touche as an accountant. His three boys are all involved in Park and Recreation programs and he has attended some of the Parks and Recreation meetings.

Mr. Tracey moved to appoint Mark Crowley to fill the vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2017. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Charity Nichols as the Tax Collector for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Muller moved to appoint Charity Nichols as the Tax Collector for a term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Accept the resignation of Harriette Heller from the Board of Ethics effective immediately. Mr. Muller moved to accept the resignation of Harriette Heller from the Board of Ethics effectively immediately. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$3,975 for the purchase of state mandated authentication hardware/software for the Police Department Mobile Data Terminal system.- Chief Troxell- Sergeant Daubert said the device is a token that has a number that changes every 60 seconds and you have to enter that number in as your password. The number is synced with the server. The FBI, through the State of Connecticut, has said that this is a standard that we must meet if we are to access the Criminal Justice Information System which went into effect September 30, 2013.

Ms. Weinstein said that the Chief had put this in his budget for next year. During the budget discussions, she found out that they are not able to use their Mobile Data terminal in their car because they don't have the secure ID. She and Tom Landry agreed that this was something that should be brought forward for a supplemental appropriation now.

Mr. Tracey moved to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$3,975 for the purchase of authentication hardware/software for the police department Mobile Data Terminal System. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding Traffic Calming Devices on the access way to the rear of the Weston Middle School. Planning and Zoning issued a favorable 8-24 report. During the process, Tom Landry looked at the state statute which says that the school district is responsible for safety, security and maintenance of the school facility. We read this as we do not have the ability to give them, or not give them, permission to put speed humps in. We did need to get the 8-24 referral because the access way is Town owned. Dr. Palmer did promise that she would not put in anything until the Police Commission passed their speed hump policy, which they did at their last meeting. Dr. Palmer said that she would make sure that anything that the Board of Education did, was in compliance with the new speed hump policy.

Chief Troxell said that John Conte is working closely with Joann Keating and Dan Clarke on this project. Mr. Conte is not taking direction from him but has been reporting to him as to how they are coming along. Mr. Conte was completely opposed to the speed humps that they initially put in and he wanted them to find something less severe. The new speed humps that they are putting in are removable and Mr. Conte worked with them to find the best places to place the speed humps which works within the parameters of the new policy.

Discussion/Decision concerning adopting an ordinance change with regard to changing our regional structure from an RPA to a COG – David Muller said he would feel negligent if he argued that we should not proceed with this. We are being told it's the law, and he thinks that there have been ample years of experience of the organizational structure working efficiently and he cannot think of any arguments other than pride to not proceed.

Mr. Tracey said he believes that this is significant risk. We have elected one CEO for this Town, we have not elected the CEO's of any other Towns and they are going to be making decisions on a majority basis, which are going to affect us. He believes this is a significant risk of handing over authority to unelected officials of Weston. He does agree that the law requires us to do it and that there are potential benefits in regional services that could benefit Weston if it's done right.

He agrees that in the past Ms. Weinstein has tried mightily to find ways to voluntarily regionalize and virtually all those efforts have come to nothing because nobody wants to compromise on anything. A regional authority of this kind can foster positive regionalization. His key point is that we have to monitor carefully and he wants to talk about how we are going to monitor it as a board. Ms. Weinstein said that she is happy to share minutes and give them a monthly report after their meetings. Mr. Tracey said that if it turns out that it is not the right thing for us we can always withdraw.

Board of Selectmen's meeting
January 16, 2014

Mr. Muller said with regard to Mr. Tracey's point about handing over authority to other elected officials, he trusts the electoral process and he trust that those people in each of the municipalities is making wise decisions.

Ms. Weinstein said that anything that we enter into on regional basis she needs to be brought back to the Board for support.

After some discussion on the ordinance wording it was decided to bring it back to Attorney Pat Sullivan and it will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Discussion/decision regarding the Town's participation in the Solarize Connecticut program for residential homes. Ms. Weinstein said Solarize Connecticut is an organization that is working with the State of Connecticut as well as several non-profits. They put together RFP's for the Town of Weston that give reduced pricing to any residential home that want solar power. They have been vetted by several other municipalities including Westport, that has participated in the program. There is no financial investment for the Town and residents get to save because everyone is preselected and vetted. They offer loans and leasing programs to make it affordable for residents. We have to decide by February 2nd whether we are going to apply to be one of the next round of Towns that can participate in this program. Both Mr. Muller and Mr. Tracey said they couldn't think of any reason not to go along with it.

Mr. Muller moved to authorize the First Selectman to submit an application to the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority to participate in the Solarize Connecticut program. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Request for property tax refunds:

Mercedes Benz	\$1,489.34
Chase Auto Finance	\$741.09
U.S. Bank	\$49.85
Total	\$2,280.28

Mr. Muller moved to authorize property tax refunds in the amount of \$2,280.28 as outlined on the Board of Selectmen's agenda dated January 16, 2014. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Items

Updates

First Selectmen updates- Ms. Weinstein said yesterday was the SWRPA and MPO legislative breakfast. They have four priorities that they have been pushing during this legislative session. The first is flooding which has been a huge issue in our region. They have been trying to get the Army Corp of Engineers to do some kind of survey or analysis. To date they have not been successful so they are looking to bring it to the State and to see if there are any agency at the State level that can do the survey that they are looking to do.

The second issue was funding for the rails and branch line. They believe that a strong branch line and a strong rail system is essential to creating economic development in the area and making Fairfield County a much stronger place to live and work in.

The third item was affordable housing and trying to change the 8-30G statute which relates to affordable housing. Last year they tried to do sweeping changes that would have made it easier for Weston to have some sort of affordable housing while holding cities like Norwalk harmless from their influx of affordable housing. We got shot down so this year they decided to scale back. They are looking to change the 830G so that it would allocate eligible senior housing a full point in the 830G moratorium calculation.

The final proposal was on public/private partnerships which she feels could be very beneficial to the State of Connecticut. The State of Connecticut did put in legislation last year and the State has allowed 5p'3to be approved and they felt that that should be expanded.

MORE Commission has started. They had a meeting yesterday with the Regional Education System Consortiums. They talked about what they currently do on a regional basis and what they feel there is potential to do in terms of moving our education into things like sharing of health insurance and non-academic kind of issues. Ms. Weinstein said she wanted to make it clear that we are not looking to regionalize our school. It is not the focus of anyone on the MORE sub-committee. There is a special sub-committee of the MORE Commission that is going to deal specifically with Special Education cost.

We are eligible for \$5000 from the fund that the State put together for Sandy Hook emergency workers. This covers the cost for police officers who provided mutual aid.

We are going to get a between \$10,000 to \$15,000 Emergency Management grant which helps to fund Sgt. Ferullo's work as our Emergency Management Director.

Mr. Tracey asked for an update on the discussions around the organization of the administrative support for the Western Regional COG. Ms. Weinstein said that the sub-committee has not met since before break but they are meeting Wednesday in Ridgefield. She did have an HR and Finance sub-committee meeting today where they made progress in term of merging the benefit and salary plans. They also started a discussion of the dues structure and how we can take two organizations and mesh the dues structure.

Board of Selectmen's meeting
January 16, 2014

Any other business to come properly before the meeting-

Mr. Tracey moved to add a discussion of speed humps to the agenda. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Walter Shanley asked about the petition process for speed humps since the new policy says there is one time in June when they will hear request for speed humps. He did the petition for Old Mill Road about two years ago and asked if they could bypass the whole petition process. Ms. Weinstein said no. The Chief of Police and the Police Commission are charged with public safety and they are the ones to make a decision. The Board of Selectman has no authority with the Speed Hump policy.

Approval of the minutes of the December 19, 2013 and the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting of January 7, 2014. This item was tabled to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting

At 8:35pm Mr. Tracey moved to enter into executive session to discuss a possible disciplinary action. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously. No action was taken in executive session.

Executive Session: Possible disciplinary action

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant
Approved 2/6/14